

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 1, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-177)

TO: David Byrnes
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Klickitat Watershed Enhancement Project – Klickitat Meadows Restoration
(Caldwell and Kessler Meadows)

Project No: 1997-056-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 8.11 Equipment Servicing, 8.17 Seed and species Selection, 8.20 Mulching, 8.25 Interim Stabilization Methods.

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation Fisheries Program

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the Klickitat River Meadows Restoration project with the Yakama Nation. The goal of this project is to restore salmonid habitat through a series of alluvial meadows along the mainstem of the Klickitat River from river mile 77 to 87. Objectives include: 1) restore riparian vegetation, 2) decrease bank erosion where appropriate, 3) promote meandering (where appropriate), 4) enhance adult escape cover, and 5) maintain or restore floodplain connectivity. Large woody debris jams will be constructed at ten sites in two meadows that occur on tribal trust lands within the Yakama Reservation. The intent is to improve spawning and rearing habitat for spring chinook and both anadromous and resident steelhead. Spring Chinook and steelhead are expected to re-colonize the area once passage improvements to the Castile Falls fishway downstream are completed in October 2004.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Will Conley with the Yakama Nation Fisheries Program (August 24, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area include Mid-Columbia River steelhead, bull trout, bald eagle, Northern spotted owl (and critical habitat), and Ute-ladies tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAA Fisheries on March 25, 2004. BPA determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on bull trout, Ute-ladies tresses and critical habitat for Northern spotted owl. BPA also determined that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bald eagle, Northern spotted owl, and steelhead and may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. USFWS concurred with these findings on June 10, 2004. NOAA Fisheries concurred with these findings on June 28, 2004.

An archaeological inventory and survey of the Klickitat River Meadows restoration project was completed by William White and JoAnn Meninick with the Yakama Nation in September 2003. Their report and findings were approved by the Cultural Committee of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council (Action #04-2003-11). The Washington State Historic Preservation Office was not notified since they do not have jurisdiction over activities on tribal trust lands. In the event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work should be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by a qualified archaeologist.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Klickitat Meadows project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals. A Yakama Nation Hydraulics Permit was completed for this project.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Klickitat Meadows Restoration project. The project has been endorsed by the appropriate Committees of the Yakama Tribal Council. The proposed project was open to public comment during the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant process and the WA State Environmental Policy Act process. Consultation on this project has also taken place with Yakima County, Yakama Nation, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Ecology, WA Department of Natural Resources, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 8-1-04

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 8-1-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NOAA Fisheries Letter of Concurrence, June 28, 2004

USFWS Letter of Concurrence, June 10, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Will Conley – Yakama Nation Fisheries Program